



The Arboretum Bulletin



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Arboretum Foundation Membership

AN ARBORETUM for the Pacific Northwest—only a dream five years ago, now a reality. This great project is fast becoming a beauty spot which will not only attract visitors to the Northwest but will also be an important center for scientific study which will benefit the world. Its objective is to provide beautiful naturalistic scenes that can be appreciated by people in every walk of life and a source of authority for all those seeking plant information.

More and more people are becoming interested in gardening and the beauties of nature. Even now England, though harassed with air raids and the horrors of war, has not overlooked or altered her program in the care and upkeep of her Kew Gardens—one of the oldest and finest arboreta of the world which dates its beginning back to 1759. We are told that in the other world war of 1914, this great Arboretum became a sanctuary where an Englishman could go and forget the tortures of war and lose himself for a time in the peacefulness and beauty of nature. This well-known garden of the world gave a lifting to the spirits and morale of a troubled nation.

To fully appreciate the increasing general interest in gardens and growing plants, which has been largely responsible for the establishment of this Arboretum in such a short time, let us make a brief review of the early history of the Arnold Arboretum located in Massachusetts:

When the trustees of Harvard University agreed to turn over the Bussy farm and accepted Mr. Arnold's bequest of \$100,000 in 1868 to establish the Arnold Arboretum, agreeing to grow in the Bussy farm every tree and shrub able to endure the climate of Massachusetts, it is safe to say none of the men directly engaged in making the agreement had any idea what such an arboretum might be.

It did not have the support of the general public, which knew nothing about an arboretum. It had a very hard time for the first five years, until Frederick Law Olmsted, Sr., succeeded, after much work, in getting the Boston Park Board to take it over, build the roads, and police it, which it did in 1885.

So it was 17 years before it was where we were when we began. At the beginning, a comparatively small number of plants now growing in the Arnold Arboretum had been collected, or in fact discovered; while when Washington Park was turned over to the University of Washington Arboretum there were many fine trees and shrubs growing in place.

We should all be grateful when we realize what few years have been necessary to make the University of Washington Arboretum what it is today, and if we pass in imagination down the centuries during which it is to occupy the ground in Seattle it now occupies, it will not be difficult, judging the future by the accomplishments of a few years,

to picture an establishment able to increase human knowledge and human happiness in all parts of America.

The foundations for such an establishment have already been laid. The position of the Arboretum as a scientific station is now recognized. It has many friends who believe in its value, and it has attracted a staff devoted to its interest.

Memberships are most valuable in the continued progress of this new Arboretum of the Northwest. They are the life blood of the Arboretum because they constitute a dependable annual income. Last year we showed a 50 per cent increase in our membership, this year we want that increase to be much greater.

Within the last two years, new members have been added to our rolls from 52 towns and cities in the State of Washington as well as from California, Arizona, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Oregon. A total of 42 Garden Clubs—12 in Seattle and 30 within the State—have taken out Arboretum Foundation memberships. This widespread interest, indicated by the fact that more than 25 per cent of the Arboretum Foundation members live outside of Seattle, in itself makes the Arboretum belong not only to the entire State of Washington and the Northwest but an Arboretum for the whole United States.

Within the last month each member of the Arboretum Foundation has received a letter soliciting his or her aid in increasing the number of memberships in the Arboretum. For your convenience there is a membership blank in this issue of the bulletin which can easily be torn out, and it is the hope of the membership committee that all of our members will avail themselves of these blanks and aid in the membership increase for which we are now working.

Rhododendrons

Some Things We Have Learned About the Newer Ones

By ENDRE OSTBO

(The author of this article is the proprietor of King of Shrubs Nursery, Bellevue. He has grown many hundreds of the best rhododendrons and has one of the finest collections in the United States.)

IN THE GARDENS in this locality (Seattle and vicinity) where the newer rhododendrons have been grown during the past three or four years we have learned from experience that some of them need more shade than others. Half shade is a good rule to go by for rhododendrons in general, but it has been found that some will do well with less while others will do better with more. Practically all of them will stand for more sun if the soil is naturally moist and cool and they are supplied with a good mulch during the summer months.

Thomsonii and some of its hybrids and sub series are exceptional in that they grow and get good foliage, even in rather heavy and packed soil and in a situation where they get a good deal of sun. Under such conditions they seem to

set flower buds much better than in loose deep woodland soil in which the rest of the big growing kind thrive. Falconeri and others of the big leaf type grow best and get much better foliage in light sandy subsoil with a good leaf mold on top. What this big leaf type craves is shelter from wind, moisture in the air, and to be watered often.

Of the big flowering garden hybrids, E. C. Stirling is one that grows best in a shady place. Both foliage and flowers lost their beauty in a sunny and exposed location. If placed in about three-fourths shade this rhododendron will really show what it is capable of doing. It will set plenty of buds even in heavy shade. Mrs. Martineau is another that shows its real beauty of delicate pink and pale clear yellow shading in a sheltered, shady situation. Loder's White seems to get by with less shade but it is too fine and delicate for an exposed place. In sheltered woodland it surely is a fine plant from the standpoint of foliage, flowers and habit.

Of course all of us have expected a lot from Loderi and its varieties because we have heard so much about them from the big flower shows in England. Words of praise have certainly not been lacking and big trophies have been awarded without arguments or challenge. I think that the great majority of people who see Loderi in bloom start right then and there to consider a garden arrangement where the plant can have a chance to grow for years and years and develop to its full capacity.

A big plant of this fine rhododendron must surely be something that surpasses any other thing in the floral kingdom. It stands a good deal of sun but its loose habit of growth and its rather few leaves show that it must have good background, the company of smaller plants and certainly shelter from wind. The huge, still, delicate blossoms in loose spreading trusses would quite easily be bruised in the least exposed situation.

Beauty of Littleworth thrives in more moisture than the other hybrids and if given that the big leathery leaves will stand a lot of sun. It is a husky fellow. Its strong lines and sturdy appearance make it most interesting in the landscape. It has the biggest solid truss of any rhododendron I have seen, and is one of the easiest of the type to grow.

Slococock's Unique seems to stand more sun than the rest of the Campylocarpum hybrids, although they all tolerate more sun than the big leaf type. It is an exceptionally fine plant for a small garden with its neat, short leaves of rich green, its big showy buds, and its compact, sturdy low growing habit.

Snow Queen and Mrs. Henry Agnew, the latter a Grandy hybrid, like more shade than any others. All of them have burnt foliage when exposed even to half sun. They set buds in deep shade and the foliage is fine. Of the small rhododendrons I think that Pemakoense has proven exceptionally easy as well as satisfactory for this locality. It does well wherever it is planted—in open woodland, in frames or in the field. It is smothered with blossoms each Spring and is surely a fine foliage plant the year around. Tephropeplum is one that everybody likes. It is not as heavy a bloomer as Pemakoense, but that is really a good thing because the blossoms have such fine lines that they would not show well if packed tight. Then, too, the foliage is too fine to be covered up even with good blossoms. The flowers are vivid magenta rose with crimson purple tube. There is also a form bearing white flowers. Deleiense, of the same type as Tephropeplum, has deeper color and somewhat broader leaves.

All of these have done well in several gardens in this locality even though they are members of the most "sassy" of the dwarf series.

Williamsianum has not been so steady a bloomer as the rest of the small kinds. It does best in an open northern

exposure and should not have too much shelter. I am inclined to the opinion that if placed in a stony and not too light a soil it would bloom better.

The rest of the dwarfs with the probable exception of Racemosum like sun, peat and plenty moisture, or at least a cool root run. Radicans will stand almost anything if it has plenty of moisture in the summer and good winter drainage.

Fall Color in Northwest Landscapes

By JOHN H. HANLEY

THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST is an evergreen region. Not that all of the native trees and shrubs hold their leaves throughout the year—many do not. But in general a large percentage of them maintain the normal dark green color through the seasons. However, even among the deciduous types, where one would expect fall foliage color to develop, there is only a relatively small number of outstanding species. Hence the natural woodlands do not exhibit the wide range and variety of brilliant leaf colors that one can see in other parts of our country. To be sure there are several colorful native species that brighten the fall landscape but there is not the same preponderance of these species as exists in other sections. Possibly a region that presents such a wealth of coniferous trees should not expect a similar preponderance of the highly colored forms.

The purpose of this article is not so much to dwell upon this deficiency as it is to point out that the color in our natural landscapes can be tremendously augmented by the use of tree and shrub species from other sections and other lands. Home surroundings can become, in many instances at least, brilliantly colorful during the fall merely by choosing and growing the right plants.

Admittedly, there does seem to be a relationship between the environment and the amount of color that will be displayed by any given species. A dry, warm fall season following a dry summer very probably does bring out the brighter colors. A low, moist garden might possibly be more difficult to plant for such fall effects. But by and large, these environmental forces can be offset in part by the proper selection of species. As a result of our observations of the past two seasons it has been possible to compile a rather extensive list of trees and shrubs whose leaves take on varying degrees and intensities of color during the fall.

Certain of the species warrant independent discussion either because of their outstanding brilliance alone or because of this plus their relative rarity. Two types have been particularly fine—one of them is rather rare, the other much more commonplace although not appearing in a very large proportion of gardens. The first is *Oxydendrum arboreum*, the sourwood. If you do not know this small tree you should try to see it as soon as possible. It is a native of Southeastern United States where isolated individuals may be found here and there in the deciduous forest. It is a member of the rhododendron family, the Ericaceae, and although the flowers themselves are not too conspicuous the inflorescences become quite prominent in the fall when they take on the appearance of slender, greenish-white fingers displayed against the dark foliage. And what colorful foliage the tree has during late September and October! Yellow, orange-yellows, orange-reds and deeper, glossy reds—all of these in interesting combinations to delight any artistic eye.

Although the sourwood may reach an ultimate height of 75 feet in its native habitat, the characteristics that it exhibits here in the Northwest indicate that it is quite slow-growing and that it will therefore retain its small-tree appearance for a long time. There are a number of specimens

in the Seattle area. All of them are in good healthy condition indicating that its adaptability to our conditions cannot be questioned. One of the finest groups that we have ever seen is included in the planting at the home of Mrs. R. S. Whaley in the Broadmoor district.

(To be continued)

Suckers or Feeders, Which?

By J. G. SEUPELT
Landscape Architect, Spokane, Wash.

WHEREVER young trees have been planted, one may observe that many, if not most people, think it necessary that all growth that tends to develop along the trunks should be sedulously removed, supposedly for the reason that the development of this side growth interferes with and detracts from the development of the top or the crown.

The growth which normally appears along the trunk (erroneously thought of as suckers) in reality is beneficial to the young tree and should therefore be temporarily retained.

The reasons for this are several, such as:

1. The foliage of such twigs shade the thin and rather tender bark of the young tree and by doing so prevents sunscald, a disfigurement which is much too prevalent because the protecting foliage is not permitted to develop.

2. The growth of a tree, and indeed that of a plant, depends on the greater or lesser area of surface, for it is only the green parts of plants in which organic building stuff (carbohydrates) are evolved.

Since the square inches of leaf surface of a young tree can be materially increased by allowing the trunk to be garlanded with foliage, it will be seen that the sprouts along the trunk, far from being suckers, are feeders, which tend to strengthen the tree and to increase the girth of the trunk.

3. The young growth along the trunk of young trees is most tender and is, for that reason, preferred by insects and larvae, (borers) to the trunk itself. The sickly looking foliage of the infested twigs enables one to notice the presence of borers much sooner and to remove the infested wood before the trunk itself has suffered.

The twigs along the trunk are to be cropped blindly, that is without regard to buds, and only enough is to be left to shade the trunk without allowing vigorous shoots to form. When such twigs, after several croppings, attain the thickness of a pencil, they are to be removed, leaving the job of shading the trunk to the smaller twigs, until they in turn reach pencil size.

Suckers, properly so called, are shoots that issue from the roots of the tree, and it is perfectly proper and needful to remove these by digging away some soil and severing them at their very beginning. To cut them off at the level of the

ground would be quite useless, as to do so, merely tends to multiply them.

A New Thrips Killer

WE HAVE had many reports this season of severe damage to gladioli and other plants by thrips. This insect is one of the most difficult garden pests to control. Of course the "glad" thrips is largely confined to the gladiolus but other types are excessively obnoxious on a wide variety of garden plants. A new poison has been used in other parts of the country with very good results. It is said to be effective on all kinds of thrips, including the one which attacks glads. The substance is called tartar emetic and an effective dosage can be made by mixing it with brown sugar and water at the following rate: 1 ounce of tartar emetic to 4 ounces of brown sugar in 3 gallons of water.

The fact that tartar emetic has been found to be an effective control for the gladiolus thrips should not deter glad growers from treating their bulbs during winter storage.

Moles

THE ARBORETUM has been accused in the past of propagating moles, later to drive them out to the properties of our adjoining neighbors. This we firmly deny and, as evidence of good faith, take this opportunity to pass along a most interesting piece of information that has recently come to us concerning a new method for mole control.

Dr. Richard E. Fuller is responsible for bringing the word to us. A California friend of his has imparted the information that dry ice is effective in eradicating moles if it is placed in sufficient quantity in the burrows. The theory upon which the treatment is based is sound. The ice, upon melting, liberates carbon dioxide.

The carbon dioxide, being heavier than air, remains concentrated in the burrow and actually flows along it to the lower levels. It displaces the air in the enclosed runs and reduces the available oxygen to such an extent that the moles go elsewhere or, if the treatment is continued long enough, they may logically be killed. An important thing to remember is to cover the burrow carefully around the point where the dry ice is placed—leave no unnecessary openings.

Where networks of burrows are found, be sure to use plenty of dry ice placed so that the carbon dioxide can permeate throughout. It might be wise to cover the point of application with a piece of heavy paper held down by a liberal sprinkling of soil.

ARBORETUM MEMBERSHIP BLANK

The Arboretum Foundation,
4420 White-Henry-Stuart Bldg.,
Seattle, Washington.

- Associate Membership \$2.00
- Participating Membership 5.00
- Active Membership 10.00
- Sustaining Membership 25.00

I hereby apply for membership in the Arboretum Foundation and remittance for same is enclosed to cover dues for the next succeeding twelve months.

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